	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/006,302	TIAN, HUI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anand Bhatnagar	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *04/11/05*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-8,11,13,14,16,17,19,20 and 22*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *12/06/01* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

1.   Applicant's amendment filed on 04/11/05 has been entered and made of

record.

2.   Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 22.

Applicant has canceled claims 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21, and 23. Currently claims 1-8,

11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 are pending.

3.   Claims 1-8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 are allowed.

4.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable

subject matter: The closest prior art of Kondo et al. (U.S. patent 6,215,421 B1)

discloses an embedding system wherein bit planes of an image are embedded

with information. Regarding claims 1 and 19, Kondo et al. does not teach the

features of "selecting an initial bit plane that is not the most significant bit plane

and that is not the least significant bit plane, introducing the information sought to

be hidden into a suitable site in the initial bit plane and generating a modified

image, determining if the modified image is of satisfactory quality compared to an

unmodified image, and if the modified image is satisfactory quality, inserting the

information into the image, and if the modified image is not satisfactory quality,

choosing another nit plane and repeating the steps of selecting introducing, and

determining until an image of satisfactory quality is obtained," that, in

combination with the other respective claim limitations. Regarding claim 22,

Kondo et al. does not teach the feature of "wherein the image modification

circuitry selects an initial bitplane that is not the most significant bit plane and that

is not the least significant bitplane, the information sought to be hidden is

introduced into a suitable site in the initial bit plane and a modified image is

generated, the image modification circuitry further determines if the modified

image is of satisfactory quality compared to an unmodified image, such that the

modified image is of satisfactory quality the image modification circuitry causes

the information to be inserted into the image, and if the modified image is not of

satisfactory quality, the image modification circuitry chooses another bitplane and

the operation of selecting, introducing, and determining are repeated until an

image of satisfactory quality is obtained," that in combination with the other claim

limitations.

5.   Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted

no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays,

should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly

labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is

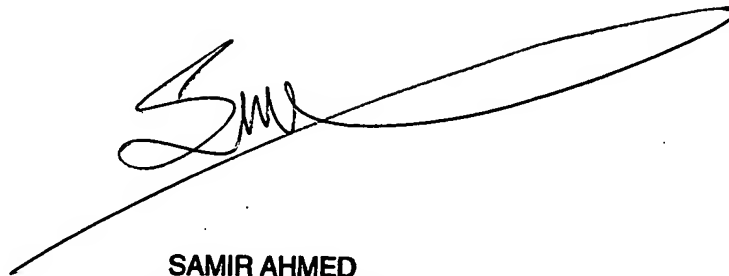(571) 272-7416, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is (571) 272-

7414, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.

AB

Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit 2623

June 10, 2005

SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER